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THE
PAPISTS PLOT
OF
FIRING
DISCOVERED,

IN
A Perfect Account of the late FIRE
IN

Fetter-Lane, London,

The Tenth Day of *April* last.

Whereby it plainly appears who
are the Instruments of this Work;

As also the Rewards they are to have;

And what would be the DISMAL EFFECTS
if this *Firing Trade* had gone on.

Published by way of Caution to all Masters of
Families to beware what Servants they enntertain
into their Houses.

Rom. 3. 15. *Their Feet are swift to shed blood.*

16. *Destruction and misery are in their ways.*

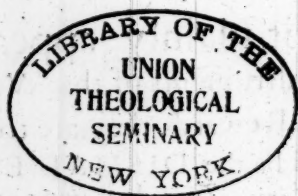
17. *And the way of Truth they have not known.*

18. *There is no fear of God before their Eys.*

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THE
PAPISTS PLOT
OF
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DISCOVERED;

*In a Perfect Account of the late
FIRE in FETTER-LANE.*

MR. ROBERT BIRD, whose House it was that was set on Fire, informed, That his Wife retained one *Elizabeth Oxley* to be her Servant (supposing her to be a Protestant) upon Monday the 24th. of *February* last, but she came not to her Service until the 6th. of *March* after. That upon Wednesday night the 9th. of *April*, about two or three of the Clock in the morning, the said Servant came to his Bed-side and awaked him, telling him *There was a Fire in Holborn*: Whereupon he asked her, How she knew it? she answered, By the noise in the Street. Whereupon he arose, and look'd into the Street, but there was little noise or light; so he

laid at his Street-door, until he was informed by two men
 that passed by, that there had been a Fire, but it was put
 out again : whereupon he returned to Bed, well pleased
 he had so watchful a Servant, and fearful of Fire : But none
 of his Family heard any thing thereof, until informed by
 the said *Oxley*, as he believeth. That on Thursday the 10th.
 of *April* he was told, the said *Oxley* went not up to Bed
 till about 11 a Clock : That before he went to Bed, he
 looked to the doors, windows, and rooms, to see if all
 were safe from Fire and Thieves, (as his custom was) and
 was the last up in the Family, as he thought. That being
 in Bed and asleep, about 12 of the Clock that night he was
 awaked, with a great beating at the door by the Watch,
 and the said *Oxley* coming immediately to him, told him
There was a Fire : To which he said, He was sure it was
 not in his House, but gave her the Key of the Street-door;
 who ran down, and let in the Watch and Company;
 and he coming down, found a large Press in his Closet
 (for keeping Books, Papers and Writings) on a light Fire,
 but by the mercy of God, and the great help he had, the
 Fire was put out, and his House preserv'd. That his Wife
 with some Neighbours immediately going to the said *Oxley's*
 Lodging Room to see if all was safe, found that she had
 packed up her Clothes and things ready to carry away, and
 her Trunks Lockt up, but nothing left in them of value :
 Whereupon he demanded of the said *Oxley* why she had
 packed up her Cloths? She answered, that she and his other
 Maid *Martia* had packed up her things to save them.
 Then he asked the said *Martia* why she had packed up in
 that time, when the Lives of the Children and Family
 were in that danger; who positively denyed that she pack-
 ed up any thing : Whereupon, and for that he was sure
 when he went to Bed there was not a spark of Fire in the
 Closet, and considering that the said *Oxley* at the first
 knocking at the door, though she lay two pair of Stairs
 above

above his Chamber; and being informed that she had put out her Candle into the Candlestick, nor burnt it, but pulled it out, and hid the Candlestick; and from the manner of her Carriage used when she perceived she was suspected, he positively Charged the said *Oxley* with Firing his House, and caused her to be kept safe all that night: And the next day being Charged by Neighbours with Firing the House, she at last Confessed the same, by setting the Press in the Closet and his Papers on Fire about Twelve of the Clock when he and his Family were a sleep. And he said, that she the said *Oxley*, might have gone out at a Back Door of his House, and carryed away any of his Goods and Plate, if she pleased at any hour in the night, without Firing his House, the Key of the Back Door lying in the Kitchen, and laid there by her self. And he said nothing of value was found in the said *Oxleys* pack made up by her as aforesaid, but her own things.

Elizabeth Oxley upon her Examination said; that about *Michaelmas* last she became acquainted with *Nicholas Stubbs*, who had several times used many perswasions to turn her Papist; and after her shewing a liking to it, and that he supposed she embraced that perswasion; in his Discourses to her at several times, he told her, that before the 28th of *June* next, she should see all the Protestants destroyed that were in *England*; that the *Pope* should be King over *England*, that all that would turn to the Popish Religion should live far better then now they did, that all the Land were Hereticks, and it were a Meritorious Act to destroy them, and that all such as were Papists should have Marks upon their Hats whereby to distinguish them from Protestants, that they might not be destroyed amongst them: Adding, that the Nation do believe that all things will be over before the 23th day of *June*, but they would be deceived, for all should be destroyed at or before that time. That the Duke of *York* was the bravest Prince living, and

that he was gone out of the Kingdom least the Hereticks should cut off his Head, and he would not return till they were destroyed; that the Lords in the *Tower* would not one of them suffer, for they would come off well enough, being to be tryed by the Lords; and that the Scaffolds were set up but for fashion sake. That the telling the said *Stubbs* that she was Hired to Live with one *Mr. Bird* about the middle of *Fetter-lane*, he used perswasions to her at several times to set Fire on her Masters House; telling her, if she would do it, he would give her 5 *l.* and gave her half a Crown, and said, he would have other Houses in *Holbourn* Fired at the same time by others: That she being with the said *Stubbs* on *Sunday* before the said Fire, promised to Fire her Masters House on *Thursday* or *Friday* night following, and accordingly on *Thursday* night she took a Candle and set Fire to her Masters Papers in his Study which were in a kind of a Press; and they being on a Light Fire, she shut the Doors and went up Stairs into her own Chamber in the Top of the House, and packed up her own Things, and Undressed her self, least her Master should suspect her, and there stayed till a great Knocking was at the Door, and the Watchmen crying out Fire; whereupon she run down Stairs and cryed out Fire, and her Master gave her the Keys to open the Door; which done, all hands were employed to quench the Fire. And she saith, she did not set Fire on her Masters House out of any Malice to him, nor with intent to Rob him, but meerly to carry on the Design which *Stubbs* had proposed to her, and out of hopes of his Reward.

Nicholas Stubbs upon his Examination, owns, and sets forth to have used such Discourse to the said *Elizabeth* as she declareth in her Examination; and saith, he did perswade her to Fire her Masters House, and was to give her five Guineys for doing it, besides half a Crown in hand: And saith, that one Father *Gyfford* a Priest and his Confessor had put

put him on this business, and told him it was no sin to Fire all the Houses of *Hereticks* and *Huganites*.

That he Acquainted *Flower* alias *Darby*, a Barber in *German-street*, and one *Roger* another *Irish* man that Lodged at the Coach and Horses in the same Street. That the said Father *Gyfford* promised him 100 l. for the same, and told him he was to have the Money from the Church. That they used to meet the said *Gyfford* and other two persons in *St. James-fields* in the dark of the Evening, and to Discourse of these matters; and that the several Informations that he had given the said *Elizabeth Oxley*, he had from the said Father *Gyfford*; and saith *Flower* and *Roger* told the said *Stubbs*, they would carry on the said Fire, and that they had Fire Balls for that purpose, and that they would Fire other Houses in *Holbourn* at the same time: That he was at the Fire in the *Temple*, but was not engaged to do any thing in it. And saith, that *Gyfford* told him that there were *English*, *French* and *Irish* Roman Catholics enough in *London* to make a very good Army; and that the King of *France* was coming with 60000 men, under pretence to shew the *Dauphin* his Dominions; but it was to lay his men at *Deep*, *Bulloign*, *Callis* and *Dunkirk*, to be in an hours warning to be Landed in *England*, and he doubted not but it would be by the middle of *June*, and by that time all the Catholics here will be in readiness; all were to rise in order to bring him in. That the Papists here were to be distinguished by Marks in their Hats; that the said Father *Gyfford* doubted not but he should be an Abbot or a Bishop when the work was over, for the good service he hath done. That at their meeting Father *Gyfford* used to tell them, it was no more sin to Kill a Heretick than a Dog, and that they did God good service in doing what Mischiefs they could by Firing their Houses. That it was well Sir *Edmondberry Godfrey* was Murdered, for he was their Devilish Enemy; That *Coleman* was a Saint in Heaven for what he

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he had done. And saith, he is fearful he shall be Murthered for this Confession, Father *Gyfford* having Sworn him to Secrefie, and told him he should be Damned if he made any Discovery, and should be sure to be Killed; and that he should take the Oaths because he was a House-keeper, and that it was no sin: And saith, that *Gyfford* and *Roger* told him, when their Forces meet about the middle of *June* then have at the——

F I N I S.

